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The Breaking Down of National Boundaries.

By Benjamin F. Trueblood.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE BIBLE CONFERENCE AT WINONA LAKE, INDIANA, AUGUST 25, 1911.

Truth and right, love and law, justice and mercy, liberty, humanity, and brotherhood know no national boundaries. Science, art, and philosophy are all universal as the race. Religion is not a matter of family or nation or clime; it knows no geographical or racial limits. It is a spiritual thing—the equal right of all souls. What is to be done with national boundaries and barriers in the light of these universal principles?

When Jesus Christ died on the cross all the walls of separation between classes, races, and peoples, built up by selfishness, greed, tyranny, and violence, were irreparably rent and doomed to final destruction. Either they must go or Christianity fail. The consummation has been long delayed, chiefly because the followers of the Nazarene, while preaching and in word exalting the great vital peace principles laid down by their Master and lying at the very roots of Christianity, have been woefully disloyal to them in practice when dealing with men and people in their larger world relations. I have often said that when the Christian Church as a whole is ready to say that there shall be no more war, war will disappear, and the walls of separation between peoples and nations will be quickly leveled to the ground.

Today a great change is passing over the world. We are witnessing the most remarkable transformation that has ever come about in human society. Everything is passing from a local, national basis to a world basis. The material unity of the world is already an accomplished fact. All parts of the world are coming together—are already together. Mountains and rivers as barriers of exclusion have disappeared. There is no more sea. Science has bidden its proud waves be stayed. Men of all races and all lands travel abroad and mingle with those of all other sections of the earth. No exclusion laws can prevent them from doing so. Christian missions have crossed all the seas and planted themselves under every sky, carrying with them the great truths of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and that marvelous group of truths involved therein—namely, love, forbearance, patience, forgiveness, self-sacrifice, and unselfish service. The proclamation of these during long centuries has at last brought forth in a large measure its legitimate fruits, not in the private circles of society only, but even more conspicuously in the larger arena of international affairs. The knowledge which the Missionaries have acquired of the races for whom and among whom they have labored has had a reflex action upon the churches at home, and has opened the eyes and expanded the vision of the whole Christian Church to a new and fuller conception of its mission as a world religion. The Church for the first time in its history has become actually a world Church, and its influence in this manner in blazing the way for world peace cannot be overestimated. Commerce has witnessed a like expansion. It has now actually united the various parts of the world into one great trading community, the exchanges of which have reached in value the enormous figure of nearly thirty thousand millions of dollars

yearly. The financial and credit systems which have been built up to meet the needs of this universal trading have woven their network over all the earth and made every part of it sensitive to disturbances in any other part. International scientific expeditions and educational exchanges are now a part of the common order of the day. International congresses and conferences make up the most conspicuous phase of international life, with their splendid programs on which appear the foremost men and women of the different nations. As to the habit, the settled habit, of pacific settlement of disputes between governments, he that runs may read.

To be more specific and detailed, there are, not to mention others of less importance, seven powerful forces which are breaking down the barriers between nations and carrying the world steadily and rapidly toward an international state, which will confederate all the peoples and races of the world into one political union, or overstate, which will have in charge all those common interests and concerns which no single nation alone can care for and which still are measurably neglected from lack of a suitable organ to look after them.

1. First among these forces must be placed Christian missions. Beginning their work a century ago, to go no further back, they have now spread their network over the entire globe. The Missionaries have made mistakes, sometimes very detrimental ones, but in the main they have been true to the great essentials of the Christian faith—namely, the oneness, the fatherhood and love of God; the oneness and the brotherhood of man; the supremacy and the conquering power of love and self-sacrifice and unselfishness as manifested supremely in Jesus Christ. The Missionaries have learned by their mistakes. They have taught their fellow-Christians at home important lessons in theology, and especially in manners. They have interpreted to us the races among whom they have labored as we have not before known them. On the whole, there is not in the entire range of human society a brighter, wiser, braver, and more progressive body of men than the Missionaries. They have brought all parts of the world, all races and peoples, into spiritual touch and communion, and that is a greater thing than commerce or other material agencies can produce. As a body today the Missionaries stand as a bulwark against the tides of race prejudice and race injustice which now and then sweep over and disgrace our Christian lands. Witness the recent action of the Missionaries in Japan at the time when a spurious and contemptible "patriotism" on the part of a few people in this country was doing its utmost to bring about a conflict between that country and ours. When Captain Hobson was going up and down the country misrepresenting Japan and declaring that she was vigorously and stealthily preparing to make war on this country, the late Dr. John H. De Forest, who had spent more than thirty years in mission work in Japan, happened to be in one of his audiences. Dr. De Forest at once took up the matter and replied to Mr. Hobson in a way that showed that this fomentor of ill feeling between the two countries had woven into his public addresses a perfect tissue of misrepresentations. During his two years' vacation in this country Dr. De Forest, speaking from first hand information, never ceased his attempt to contradict these falsehoods and to show that the Japanese government and people were, as they have

always been, thoroughly friendly toward our country. This note was taken up by the Missionaries in Japan as a body, and not long ago they issued a statement which ought finally to silence the maligners of the Mikado's government. The Peace Society of Japan at Tokyo, the Oriental Peace Society at Kyoto, and the more recent American Peace Society of Japan, all of which have been powerful in winning leading Japanese, both in public and private life, to the peace movement, were almost wholly the work of the Missionaries. The influence of the missionary bodies operating in China has been largely in the same direction. One of the most prominent, wise, and influential peace workers of our time is Rev. Timothy Richard, who has been for a whole generation laboring among the Chinese and endeavoring to interpret their true character and needs to the western world.

I must not let this opportunity pass to say a word in appreciation of the marvelous work toward world union which is being accomplished by the Christian Endeavor organization, under the lead of Dr. Francis E. Clark. The work of this great society is missionary work of the highest order, and at the same time peace work of the most thorough and far-reaching kind. The same is true of other similar organizations of young people in the various denominations.

2. Next to Christian missions in the leveling of national boundaries must be placed commerce. The development of international trade in the century since modern missions began their work is something that puzzles the imagination. The figure covering international exchanges for the whole world one hundred years ago was only about \$1,500,000,000. Today it has reached the colossal sum of about \$30,000,000,000. Most of this startling increase has taken place during the last forty years, within which period war has greatly declined as compared with previous times and the organized peace movement has developed into the most influential international reform of our time. Men sell and buy for use and profit, under the propulsion of an instinct as natural, spontaneous, and imperious as the instinct to pray or any other of the mighty elemental forces of human nature. They have always done so, and they always will do so. And the more they do so the more closely are they bound together in mutual dependence and friendship. Commerce knows no national boundaries and chafes at any restrictions that may be placed in its way. Commerce means peace, as our recent Ambassador to Constantinople, Hon. Oscar S. Straus, is fond of saying—that is, commerce not only promotes peace, but also requires peace in order to grow and prosper. The only lines of business which war favors are those which provide the munitions of war. Commerce has its bad side, but only when it is in the hands of bad men. On the whole, the commerce of the world is today arrayed, or is fast arraying itself, on the side of international friendship and peace. The last time there was real danger of war between France and England, Anglo-French commerce, on whose unbroken continuance the lives and happiness of millions of people depend, led by the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, threw itself into the breach and prevented hostilities, even after the fleets of the two countries were under steam and ready for the worst. Two hundred and seventy-five of the great chambers of commerce and

boards of trade of the two countries joined their forces against war and urged the conclusion of a treaty of obligatory arbitration between the two countries which would thereafter make war practically impossible. In our country, nearly all the important chambers of commerce and boards of trade from New York to San Francisco have already put themselves on record as in favor of the arbitration of international disputes, and are now pouring into Washington by every mail their demand that the unlimited treaties of arbitration between this country and Great Britain and France be ratified without change and with as little delay as possible. It must not be supposed that the men of trade and commerce in their opposition to war are moved solely by economic reasons. Many of them are moved by high humanitarian motives.

3. The third of the potent factors which are working out the unity and federation of the nations is international travel and residence. Through the application of the discoveries and inventions of science intercommunication between all parts of the world by travel and correspondence has now become swift and easy. The instinct to go about and see and learn has thus been set free, and as a consequence people of all lands and races travel everywhere and intermingle with each other with very large if not yet perfect freedom. There is not a country anywhere within whose borders individuals and families of other countries do not reside a part or all of the time, for business or pleasure. The result is that we are all now a part of an international or world society, which is growing both extensively and intensively with increasing rapidity and power. Among these foreign residents are the Ambassadors, Ministers, and Consuls sent out by the various governments to represent them at the courts of other countries, or to look after their economic interests in important foreign cities. Through these officials there is growing up along with the world society what is essentially a world government which is destined to develop in strength and directive influence more and more as the years go on. It is useless to take time to point out to you what the results of these processes will be in the final social, economic, and political destiny of humanity. Suffice it to say that war, which has already been placed on the defensive, cannot long live under these new conditions and that misunderstandings and prejudices, out of which wars often spring, must wither and die when all the world is living in what is practically one room.

4. In the next place, the international scientific and educational movements of our time are powerful forces in promoting the elimination of artificial and obstructive distinctions and barriers. Science is universal and impartial. The men of science constitute a strong and sympathetic world brotherhood. All the great astronomical observatories and chemical, biological, and physical laboratories are in constant intercommunication. A discovery in one country immediately becomes the possession of scientific men and organizations in all countries—the possession, indeed, of all men everywhere. One man discovers a new star or comet, and at once the telescopes of all quarters of the globe are pointed to the same spot in the heavens. It is hard for men thus co-operating in a high calling to hate and fight each other.

The entire education of our day is rapidly becoming international. The leading books of pedagogics are

translated into and studied in all the civilized tongues. Professors have for many years been called from one country to the universities and schools of other countries. This custom is now supplemented and extended through the new system of exchange professors, which is destined to play a great rôle in the unification of the nations. Peoples are today learning each others' languages with a frequency and assiduity which augurs well for the future. General literature is also rapidly taking on an international flavor, as nearly all important writers are now great travelers. You cannot hate or despise a people into whose life and spirit and inmost characteristics you have entered through its speech.

5. A very particular omen of the coming political unity of the world is found in the numerous congresses and conferences held by the governments in recent years. I do not allude to the large number of international conferences held by the private promoters of religion, science, philanthropy, trade, medicine, peace, etc., like the Universal Races Congress, which has just closed its sessions in London. These congresses have run into the hundreds and are doing much to enable the inhabitants of the different countries to understand and help each other. Those to which I refer are purely official in character, the delegates being appointed by the governments themselves. Since the famous Congress of Vienna, in 1815, which settled the map of Europe, after the close of the Napoleonic campaigns, more than one hundred and twenty-five of these diplomatic conferences have been held. So numerous have become the interests which are common to the governments that scarcely a year passes without the meeting of one or more of these conferences in which all the nations, or a considerable body of them, take part. Your minds will at once recall the Anti-Slavery and the Anti-Opium Congresses a generation ago, the four Pan-American Congresses, and the two Hague Peace Conferences, in the last of which, with one or two insignificant exceptions, all the independent governments of the earth were represented. International legislation has these last years become an absolute necessity, and these occasional and irregular congresses will in a few years give away to a regular assembly or parliament of the nations, which will meet at stated periods and deal with the class of interests which vitally concern the world at large. Indeed, the second Hague Conference, four years ago, deliberately took the step which leads straight to this goal, when it adopted the principle of periodic conferences, chose the time for the meeting of the third Hague Conference, and recommended to the governments the appointing of a general commission, two years in advance, to prepare the program of the next conference. When that time comes—and it will come within the lifetime of some of the young men and women who are here—then the problem of the peace of the world will be solved, and the great armaments on sea and land, which are now burdening and exhausting the peoples and are, as the British Prime Minister recently declared, a satire on our civilization, will fall away, with no one left to apologize or mourn for them.

6. The agency that is doing most, perhaps, in an immediate practical way to bring the nations to give up their suspicions and distrust of each other and to make war between them unlikely, if not impossible, is arbitration. The story of the arbitration of international dis-

putes during the past century constitutes one of the finest pages of history ever written. Within the nineteenth century more than two hundred and fifty important controversies were adjusted by this pacific method, more than sixty of them within the last decade of the century. Since the twentieth century opened the number of cases has gone on multiplying at the rate of more than half a dozen per year. The Permanent International Court of Arbitration at The Hague has now been in operation for ten years, and all ordinary disputes go as naturally to this tribunal as controversies between our States to the Supreme Court at Washington. More than a hundred treaties of obligatory arbitration have, within eight years, been concluded between the nations two and two, and are now in force. The movement for the substitution of law for war has entered upon its last stage. The effort of our government, under the splendid lead of President Taft, to secure unlimited treaties of arbitration is nothing more than the beginning of the culmination of the movement for arbitration which has been going on for a hundred years. Whatever may be the immediate fate of these treaties, the substance of what Mr. Taft is aiming at is certain to be realized without much delay. Arbitration has already been tested so often, and never found wanting, that it will inevitably soon be written in a permanent and unrestricted form in the public law of the world. We should rejoice that our government is in a position to take the lead in the realization of this high Christian ideal, and as individuals and churches we should throw the full weight of our influence immediately on the side of what the President of our great country is attempting to accomplish.

I need hardly mention in this connection the work of the peace organizations. They have, of course, done much as agents in the promotion of the movement of the world toward unity and peace, but they have done much more still as prophets and interpreters of the great Christian destiny which awaits the world. They have pointed out with prophetic eye the direction in which our civilization is moving, and called attention to the various forces of human society which are working, in spite of ancient prejudices and many obstacles, steadily and with ever-increasing power toward the realization of the universal brotherhood and fellowship of mankind under the fatherhood and leadership of God. Their number in different parts of the earth is now more than six hundred, and they continue today, as in the past, faithfully to uncover and condemn the inherent evils and monstrous iniquities of war, to point out the methods by which it may always honorably be avoided, and to hold before the human race the moral glory and economic splendor of that time when the nations shall forge the instruments of destruction into tools of industry and learn the art of war no more. With the work of these societies all good men and women everywhere ought to cooperate.

In connection with the special meeting of the American Peace Society and that of the Board of Directors in Washington, December 8, a public mass-meeting will be held in the evening in the hall of the Pan-American Building, which will be addressed by a number of eminent speakers. Special announcements will be made later.